



744 La Guardia Street, Building A, Salinas, CA 93905

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October 20, 2022– MEETING MINUTES—Approved Nov. 17, 2022

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, October 20, 2022, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Directors Present: B. Jefferson, B. Plemmons, J. Doud, B. Lipe, J. Gularte

Directors Absent: A. Gonzalez, J. Clarke, M. Ritter , (Associate), I. Mendoza (Associate)

Others Present: P. Robins (RCDMC), M. Errea (RCDMC),

Recorders: P. Robins, M. Errea

Open Session: Director Jefferson called the meeting to Order at 10:08 am.

Public Comment: None

Consent Items:

- *Approval of Resolution 22-16 to comply with AB 361 for remote meetings*
- *Approval of Draft Meeting Agenda*
- *Approval of Minutes from the September 22, 2022 Regular Board meeting*
- *Staff Activities Report for September 2022*

Director Plemmons moved to approve the Consent Items. Director Doud seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Reports

Executive Director Report:

Robins briefly described potential changes to public meeting laws relative to hybrid/remote meeting participation once new legislation comes into effect on January 1, and the termination of the Governor's Declaration of Emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic on February 28, 2023. Robins also briefly described a document he is developing with staff to clarify Standard Operating Procedures for RCD project management, invoicing and reporting.

NRCS Report:

District Conservationist Ariel DeLara reported that for the federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, the Bay Area and Central Coast Area ('2') received \$13.7M in Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract awards, with a total of 444 applications. Of that total, Monterey County received \$1.1M to fund 30 contracts, 14 of which were for forested lands. On average 1/3 of the submitted applications were funded. This includes funding that came as part of the RCD's Salinas River RCPP, the Los Padres Joint Chiefs award for forestry projects, along with the standard Rangeland and Cropland contracts.

Director Reports:

Director Plemmons announced the upcoming Central Coast RCDs meeting to be held in the Gilroy area on October 26. He also reminded the board that the California Association of RCDs (CARCD) will be holding its Annual meeting 11/30 – 12/2 in person in Folsom.

Director Doud spoke about the carbon sequestration on rangelands meeting held on September 22 – recordings of the presentations are available on-line. Director Plemmons to send out the link.

Old or Standing Business

P. Robins / Directors

No items pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Monthly Financial Statements: Finance Manager Errea presented the financial statements regarding Accounts Receivable, Payables and Bank balances for the period ending October 20, 2022. The accrual account balance on October 20, 2022 was \$308,121, with a balance of \$1,186,894 in the Chase Bank and County Treasury (including loans and advance payments), \$669,384 in liabilities, and \$(209,389) due to the RCD as receivables from various grants and outstanding invoices. For comparison, the Accrual accounting balance for District Funds stood at \$285,359 on September 22, 2022.

Expenses: Errea presented the list of detailed expenses to be paid on October 20, including bi-weekly salary through October 9th, one-time and recurring miscellaneous expenses, and reimbursement for expenses incurred during the months of September and October, totaling \$350,581.21.

Director Doud moved to approve the October financial statements and the September and October expenses. Director Plemmons seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Review of New or Revised Contracts

Robins briefly reviewed the following contracts for initiation or amendment:

- ICA 2022-07 Ventana Forestry slight NTE increase to \$411,081;
- ICA 2022-16 Tukman Geospatial, to develop funding for a fine scale vegetation map of Monterey County for \$25,000

Robins asked if any Directors had relationships with any of the potential contractors, and none were indicated.

Director Doud moved to approve contract ICA 2022-07 and Director Plemmons seconded the motion. All approved.

Director Plemmons moved to approve contract ICA 2022-16 and Director Doud seconded the motion. All approved.

Fundraising

A discussion was held regarding a prospective location for a fundraising event.

Braga Barn was considered; it can hold up to 75 people.

Director Gularte proposed the facilities at the Monterey Fairgrounds. Gularte spoke with Kelly Violini, They discussed that some rooms had more availability mid-week with prospective dates of April 27 for the 'Monterey' Room or April 27 or 28 for a different room. Directors discussed considering an event focus on forest health or fire prevention work. Robins noted that would depend on the interest and support of our fire fuel mitigation program partner organizations. Tuitele-Lewis offered to reach out to his program partners and follow up with Robins. Robins also would reach out to the most recent BBQ partner organization, the Salinas River Management Unit Association, to advise them of the interest in considering a new focus for the event.

New business

Approval of Director Gonzalez as Chase Bank account signatory. Director Doud motioned to

approve, Director Plemmons seconded; all approved.

Robins informed Board Members that a representative from the Central Coast Wetlands Group will present to the November board meeting regarding the recently-awarded \$10M Multi-benefit Land Repurposing Program grant in partnership with the Salinas Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Consistent with the RCD's request in approving a letter of support for their proposal, they have included funding in their budget for requesting that the RCD (Robins) provide a coordination role on the land acquisition committee.

Jamie Tuitele-Lewis presented a summary of the Rancho Rico Fuels Management Project CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration and outcomes of the public comment period. All project work would be above-ground, but he indicated any potential erosion risk would be managed with Best Management Practices for slope and soil stabilization and strategic vegetation management. He received no comments public other than a formal consultation request and subsequent meeting with the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County, who requested that there be a tribal monitor on site during project work to avoid impacts to cultural resources. The Board briefly discussed the matter, and no members of the public provided comment at the meeting. Director Doud motioned to authorize a Notice of Determination, and Director Plemmons seconded. All present voted to approve.

Robins described work by himself and staff to develop new position descriptions consistent with the updated Personnel Compensation Policy approved in June 2022. As part of the update he shared descriptions for two new positions to be hired in the coming months—a Field Technician for the RCD's 'Ag Program', and a Program Assistant to support RCD administrative and outreach activities.

Announcements

Directors/ Robins

Next board meeting will discuss the Strategic Plan update and fundraisers.

There will be presentations by Jenny Balmagia on the Land Repurposing grant and Zoe Curcio will introduce herself as the RCD's new (first-ever) Grizzly Corps Fellow.

11:33 A.M. Meeting Adjourned

Next Regular RCD meeting: Thursday, November 17, 10am. Meeting will be held both in-person and by Zoom.